

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A surgical needle which comprises:
 - a base portion having a root diameter; and
 - a tapered end portion extending from said base portion to a pointed end,
- 5 the tapered end portion defining at least a first and second region, wherein the first region having an average taper ratio of approximately 2.76:1 and the second region having an average taper ratio of approximately 5.65:1.
2. The surgical needle according to claim 1 wherein the first region incorporates a length which is approximately 1/5 of the overall length of the tapered end portion.
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